

Message Text

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FOR CU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, JA (KASAI, SHINJI)

SUBJECT: 1974 JAPANESE JOURNALIST GRANTEE

REF: CIES LETTER OF JULY 10, 1974 TOKYO 5050 TOKYO MEMO 4422

FOR TRANSMITTAL TO CIES

1. COMMISSION TANDS BY ITS ORIGINAL RANKING OF JOURNALISM ALTERNATE CANDIDATES. TWENTY TWO JOURNALISTS WERE INTERVIEWED BY SCREENING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF DON OBERDORFER, WASHINGTON POST BUREAU CHIEF, HERMAN NICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE BUREAU CHIEF, OSAMU WATANABE, FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR, SANKEI SHIMBUN, AND JUNICHIRO KOBAE, SPECIAL REPORTER FOREIGN NEWS DIVISION NHK TELEVISION. JAPANESE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE PRIOR U.S. EXPERIENCE AND U.S. MEMBERS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH NEEDS OF JAPANESE JOURNALISM. INTERVIEWS IN ENGLISH SOUGHT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER CANDIDATE COULD BENEFIT FROM U.S. STUDY AND WHETHER HE HAS POTENTIAL TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION AFTER RETURNING TO JAPAN. BECAUS OF MANY OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES INTERVIEWERS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED COMMISSION TO INCREASE NUMBER OF JOURNALIST AWARDS FROM TWO ORIGINALLY BUDGETED SINCE IT FELT TOP SIX CANDIDATES WERE ALL DESERVING. IN POINTS RECEIVED THREE ALTERNATES DIFFERED ONLY SLIGHTLY AND FINAL RANKING WAS DETERMINED ONLY AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AMONG INTERVIEWERS AS TO RELEVANCE OF CANDIDATE'S RESEARCH INTEREST AND POTENTIAL VALUE TO CANDIDATE AND TO JAPANESE OURNALISM OF U.S. STUDY EXPERIENCE.

2. COMMISSION GENERALLY PLACES GRAT VALUE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 09731 250704Z

ITS SPECIALIST SCREENING COMMITTEES SINCE DIFFICULT TO JUDGE

CANDIDATES

ONLY ON BASIS OF WRITTEN APPLICATION. A CANDIDATE WHO LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER SOMETIMES DISSAPOINTING IN INTERVIEW AND VICEVERSA.

3. ADMINISTRATIVELY, CIES VIEWS EXTREMELY LATE SINCE ORIGINAL NOMINATION MEMO OF JAPANESE CANDIDATES INCLUDING ALTERNATES WAS SENT IN JANUARY WITH NOTIFICATION OF KAWANO WITHDRAWAL AND KASAI UPGRADING IN APRIL. USEC/J HAS ALREADY NOTIFIED KASAI OF HIS UPGRADING TO PRINCIPAL STATUS SUBJECT TO BFS APPROVAL SO THAT HE COULD MAKE PLANS TO OBTAIN LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM EMPLOYER.

4. COMMISSION STANDS FIRMLY BY ITS NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES AND WOULD APPRECIATE CIES PROCEEDING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH KASAI AFFILIATION SO THAT HE CAN DEPART IN TIME FOR FALL SEMESTER.
HODGSON

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